

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1678

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ANAR, PE

SUBJECT: GOP INTEREST IN MAJOR EFFORT TO CONTROL COCA CULTIVATION

REF: LIMA 7879, STATE 218255

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE MET SEPTEMBER 3 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF THE FIELDS' TEAM EXPLORATORY VISIT AND THE PERUVIAN COCA REDUCTION PROPOSAL (LIMA 7879).

2. IT WAS AGREED THAT WHILE THE NEW GOP INTEREST IN THE CONTROL OF COCA CULTIVATION IS A POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT, WE SHOULD STRESS TO GOP OFFICIALS THAT THE SCOPE OF ANY NEW AGREEMENT AND/OR PROGRAM SHOULD BE BROADER THAN BASIC ERADICATION AND CROP SUBSTITUTION IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A METHOD OF "INCOME SUBSTITUTION" - PROVIDING AN EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE AND LUCRATIVE LIVELIHOOD FOR THE PEASANTS NOW ENGAGED IN PRODUCING COCA. THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL IS WEIGHTED TOWARD ENFORCEMENT, BUT A MORE BALANCED PROGRAM IS NEEDED.

3. AS TO THE NEXT STEP, THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR REPORTED THAT HE HAD URGED ATTORNEY GENERAL DIAZ POMAR ON SEPTEMBER 2 TO EXPEDITE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL GOP COORDINATING GROUP. THIS GROUP SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING A DRAFT OVERALL PLAN TO WHICH U.S. EXPERTS COULD ADDRESS THEMSELVES.

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4. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE WOULD SOON MEET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL DIAZ POMAR AND HIS STAFF IN RESPONSE TO HIS INVITATION TO PURSUE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE. WE WOULD ALSO BE GLAD TO HAVE WASHINGTON COMMENTS TO RELAY AT THIS MEETING.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO STATE 218255, THE COMMITTEE PROPOSES THAT IT MIGHT BE MUTUALLY PROFITABLE FOR THE LA PAZ EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR TO VISIT LIMA TO BRIEF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS OF THE PROGRAM IN BOLIVIA.
SMITH

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